Overview of the Global Office of Environment and Urban Programs (G/ENV/UP) and the Regional Urban Development Offices

USAID's Global Office of Environment and Urban Programs serves as the catalyst for the Agency's Making Cities Work (MCW) strategy. MCW is USAID's approach to mainstreaming "urban" into all types of mission programs. MCW seeks to promote economic development and reduce poverty in the coutnries USAID works with by ensuring that their cities and towns:

- Offer safe and healthy places to live; with a sustainable environment
- Provide basic infrastructure and housing that serve all their inhabitants
- Feature robust economies, with ample opportunities for employment
- Promote participatory democracy, with high levels of citizen satisfaction with local institutions

The Office of Environment and Urban Programs promotes the use of multi-sectoral approaches by missions to addressing urban development and urban poverty. The Office provides technical assistance to USAID missions through our Washington and field offices and through a number of implementation tools:

❖ **Regional Urban Development Offices (RUDOs)—**Serving USAID missions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Near East, the RUDOs provide guidance and technical assistance in urban development and management, local service delivery, housing and municipal finance. The RUDOs' field presence, regional focus and experience in working with the private sector make them a unique and responsive resource for bilateral missions.

❖ **Making Cities Work Partnership Fund** - A fund provided by the Office of Environment and Urban Programs to support mission pilot activities which meet the Making Cities Work criteria of sustainable, innovative, multi-sectoral, urban-oriented work in the developing world.

❖ **Making Cities Work Web Site**- The office maintains a web site that serves as a principal learning and communications link with our development partners and with other donors and urban development agencies. This site also links the RUDO's with each other and with Washington and provides a excellent source for promoting USAID's urban agenda worldwide.

❖ **Resource Cities** --This partnership program, implemented jointly between USAID and ICMA, draws on the pro-bono contributions of technical expertise by US local government professionals through partnerships with overseas municipalities funded by mission programs.

❖ **Sustainable Urban Management (SUM IQC***)*- This contract provides missions with quick-response, short-, medium- and long-term advisory services, technical assistance and training in support of USAID's goal of well-managed urbanization. Work under this contract focuses on three of USAID's strategic objectives: (1) protection of the environment for long-term sustainability, (2) democracy and good governance and (3) broad-based economic growth.

❖ **Cities Matter Training Courses** train USAID staff and their development partners on urban topics. The courses emphasize how city governments can address urban development issues such as economic development, global climate change mitigation, strategic planning, municipal finance and water and wastewater service delivery in a way that is mindful of the value of citizen participation, and fiscal and environmental sustainability. As part of the course, USAID staff and development counterpart attendees focus on development of action plans for implementing programs in the field.

❖ **Engineering IQC** offers support to missions in transportation and civil engineering expertice in the economics and institutional/policy reform as well as assessing, planning, financing, constructing, purchasing, procurement, and operations and maintenance.

❖ **The Private/Public Partnership for Quality Habitat Programming Cooperative Agreement**—This pilot collaboration with PLAN International establishes a self-sustaining models for housing and credit that will enable more poor families and local institutions worldwide to access quality habitat. Its aim is to utilize demonstration models to replicate sustainable, cost recoverable models of housing and credit on a large scale.

❖ **Urban Environmental Credit/Development Credit Authority –** Provides an important mechanism to leverage investment into the provision of infrastructure and other urban services, especially to the poorer families. This also privides a means to engage local financial institutions and micro credit providers to be involved in financing urban services and housing improvement.

❖ **Cities Alliance Consultative Group-** The Office provides support to and represents USAID in the Cities Alliance Consultative Group. This group works to corridinate bilateral and multilateral assistance to assure the scale –up of programs to upgrade urban slums and to forge programs and partnerships for city development strategy implementation.

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